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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/712,808	11/14/2000	Margaret M. Ward	KCX-117 (14096)	9551

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EXAMINER

HALPERN, MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/712,808	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WARD ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Mark Halpern	<b>Art Unit</b> 1731	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 13-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3,5-7,9,11,14,15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,8,10,13 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

1) Acknowledgement is made of Amendment received 6/30/2003. Applicants amend claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 16. Other claims are amended, however, only claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, are under consideration.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2) Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Merker (6,277,241). Merker

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discloses a three plies absorbent paper product, said paper product includes a paper towel, a napkin, and other similar products (Abstract, and col. 1, lines 12-21). A paper product, a tissue, is disclosed by Farrington (5,129,988) and by Edwards (5,494,554); both of said patents being incorporated into Merker by reference (Merker, col. 7, lines 10-14). The paper product has a middle layer located between two outer layers. The middle layer is of a bulk greater than the bulk of the two outer layers; the middle layer accounts for 47% by weight, and each of the outer layer accounts for 26% by weight (Merker, col. 10, lines 24-30). Since the middle layer is not subject to any pressures or forces that would make the bulk of the middle layer of increased density than the density of the outer layers, it is inherent, or in the alternative obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, that the middle layer is thicker than the surrounding outer layers. The Merker paper product is through air dried (col. 7, lines 40-45), and creped during its manufacturing (col. 8, lines 27-61). The layers receive a chemical enhancement (col. 6, lines 16-36). The layers of Merker are fibrous webs (Abstract).

3) Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merker in view of Salman (5,904,812). Merker is applied as above for claim 1, Merker fails to disclose the tissue being calendered. Salman discloses a tissue being calendered (Abstract). It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Merker and Salman, because such a combination would improve smoothness and gloss in the product of Merker, a consumers desired quality in a tissue, as disclosed by Salman (Salman, col. 1,

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lines 5-53).

4) Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Merker in view of Mahl (4,355,021). Merker discloses a method of manufacturing a three plies absorbent web paper product, said paper product being a paper towel, a napkin, or a similar product (Merker, col. 1, lines 12-21, and col. 6, line 57 to col. 8, line 62). A paper product, a tissue, is disclosed by Farrington (5,129,988) and by Edwards (5,494,554); both of said patents being incorporated into Merker by reference (Merker, col. 7, lines 10-14). The paper product has a middle layer located between two outer layers. The middle layer is of a bulk greater than the bulk of the two outer layers; the middle layer accounts for 47% by weight, and each of the outer layer accounts for 26% by weight (Merker, col. 10, lines 24-30). Merker fails to disclose administering to the middle ply a chemical agent selected from the following agents: activated carbon, antibacterial agents, and foam. Mahl discloses a virucidal agent added to a paper tissue, said virucidal agent is impregnated within the tissue (Mahl, col. 1, lines 5-10, and col. 2, line 45 to col. 3, line 17). It would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Merker and Mahl, by adding the virucidal agent of Mahl into the middle ply product of Merker, because such a combination would provide for an improved product of Merker, since its use would reduce respiratory viral infections as disclosed by Mahl (Mahl, col. 3, lines 1-22).

***Response to Amendment***

- 5) Claims 1, 8, rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Floden, is withdrawn in view of amended claims.
- 6) Applicants' arguments filed 6/30/2003, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants allege that the amended claims now recite "web" in place of "ply" or "layer" and that the cited reference, Merker, does not disclose "at least three webs" structure, thus eliminating the issue as to the difference between "plies" and "layers".

The argument is not well taken. The recitation of "web" in place of terms "ply" and "layer" does not resolve the issue. Merker discloses the invention structurally as per items 2-4, above. The layers of Merker are fibrous webs (Abstract).

***Conclusion***

- 7) Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Halpern whose telephone number is 703-305-4522. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, (9:00-5:30).

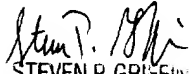
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703-308-1164. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7718 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

MH

Mark Halpern  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1731

July 10, 2003

  
STEVEN P. GRIFFIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700